

REMARKS

Claims 1-19 are pending in this application. Claims 1-5, 10 and 14 are amended, and new claims 20-24 are added herein. As amended, claims 1, 5, 10 and 14 are independent claims.

The applicant acknowledges with appreciation the Examiner's early indication in Section 7 of the Action that claims 5-9 and 13-18 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. The applicant notes, however, the claim 13 has been rejected in Section 3 of the Action. Therefore, it is assumed that the indication of allowability in Section 7 is intended by the Examiner to be applicable to claims 5-9 and 14-18, rather than claims 5-9 and 13-18 as stated. The Examiner is respectfully requested to advise the undersigned attorney if this assumption is incorrect.

Claims 5-9 and the 14-18 are placed in the condition for allowance herein by amending claim 5 to incorporate all the limitations of claims 1 and 4, and amending claim 14 to incorporate all the limitations of claims 10 and 13.

Claims 1-3 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) is being anticipated by Sato (U.S. Patent No. 6,473,201). Claim 4 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being obvious over Sato in view of Ishida et al. (U.S. patent No. 6,298,156). Claim 1 is amended herein to distinguish over the applied references.

With regard to claim 1, The Examiner points to Sato as teaching a method of analyzing and converting bi-level image data, applicable to line density conversion in a facsimile machine, comprising: a detection unit 3 detecting transition points in image data; and an adjustment unit 7 coupled to the detection unit, adjusting the image data according to detected transition points (column 1, lines 8-10, and the column 3, lines 14-27).

Claim 1 is amended herein to highlight the fact that the present invention is intended to deal with the situation in which the received image page has a width greater than the printing width of the facsimile machine (see application page 5, lines 1-4), and that the adjustment unit of the present invention has the means for deciding whether the image data will be adjusted on the basis of the detected transition points (see specification page 5, Table 1).

Sato is directed to a method for analyzing a bi-level image, coded as transition data indicating positions of transitions in individual dot lines, for the purpose of increasing the line density of the image by computing and interpolating a new dot line between existing dot lines, or decreasing line density of the image by computing a single dot line to replace adjacent dot lines (see Abstract of Sato). Neither the text and figures referenced by the Examiner, nor any other section of Sato for that matter, teach or suggest detecting transition points in image data representing an image of a page having a width greater than a printing width of the facsimile machine, as claim 1 requires. Simply put, the present invention is directed to adjusting the width of the image page to fit the printing page without truncating the ends of the dot lines, while Sato, in contrast, discloses adding or deleting dot lines to adjust the image density in a direction perpendicular to the length of the dot lines.

Further, Sato discloses that the adjustment unit either increases or decreases the dot line density of the printed image. Sato fails to teach or suggest an adjustment unit having means for deciding whether the image data will be adjusted on the basis of the detected transition points, as amended claim 1 requires.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that amended claim 1 patentably distinguishes over in the Sato reference. Further, it is respectfully submitted that claims 2-4 patentably distinguish over the applied art references for at least the reason that they depend from claim 1.

Claims 10, 13 and 19 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Sumida et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,383,754). Claims 11 and 12 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being obvious over Sumida in view of Cahill, III et al. (U.S. patent No. 4,792,981). Claim 10 is amended herein to distinguish over the applied references.

With regard to claim 10, The Examiner points to Sato as teaching a method of processing image data, representing an image of a page, in preparation for printing of the image data by a facsimile machine having predetermined printing margins, comprising the steps of: (a) detecting margins in the image of said page from the image data; (b) comparing detected margins with the printing margins of the facsimile machine; and (c) modifying the image data according to differences between the

detected margins and the printing margins (column 32, lines 27-59).

Like claim 1, claim 10 is amended herein to highlight the fact that the present invention is intended to deal with the situation in which the received image page has a width greater than the printing width of the facsimile machine (see application page 5, lines 1-4).

What the text referenced by the Examiner discloses is an image forming apparatus that determines the orientation of an image of each of multiple documents by detecting margins and determining, based on the detected orientations, whether or not any of the documents is different in orientation for the first document. When a document of different orientation from the first document is detected a message alerting the operator to such a document is displayed and/or recovery procedure in the orientation condition is executed to uniformize the orientations, e.g., the image is rotated (inverted in the memory) or the document is reversely scanned. Nothing in the text referenced by the Examiner, or the related figures, teaches or suggests detecting transition points in image data representing an image of a page having a width greater than a printing width of the facsimile machine, as amended claim 1 requires. Simply put, the present invention is directed to adjusting the width of the image page to fit the printing page, while Sumida discloses reorienting the image on the printed page, an approach that is entirely different. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that amended claim 10 patentably distinguishes over in the Sumida reference. Further, it is respectfully submitted that claims 11-13 and 19 patentably distinguish over the applied art references for at least the reason that they depend from claim 10.

New claim 20, depending from claim 1, is added to recite the feature that the adjustment unit makes a decision not to reduce the page image in width for printing if the set printing margins are smaller than the detected margins of the page image, as disclosed in the application at page 5, first three lines immediately following Table 1. New claim 21, depending from claim 10, is added to recite the feature that the printing margins are set with reference to the width of the detected page image, as disclose in the application at page 5, lines 1-5. New claim 22, an independent claim, replicates the features of amended claim 10, except that step (p) is amended to recite "making a decision whether the image data will be adjusted on the basis of the difference between

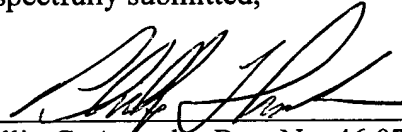
the detected margins of the page image and the set printing margins," analogous to the changes in claim 1. Finally, new claims 23 and 24, depending from claim 22, recite limitations found elsewhere in previous claims (see claims 20 and 21).

For at least the reasons discussed above, it is respectfully submitted that this Amendment places the application in condition for allowance. Allowance of the claims as amended, and passing of the application to issue are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner feel that a conference would help to expedite the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is hereby invited to contact the undersigned counsel to arrange for such an interview.

Payment in the amount of \$156.00 is submitted herewith to cover the fees applicable to the four (4) excess claims added by this Amendment, and one (1) excess independent claim. Should the payment be missing, or insufficient in amount, please deduct any deficiency from our Deposit Account 18-0002 and notify the undersigned accordingly.

Respectfully submitted,



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August 11, 2003
Date

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